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MASTER FILE

DSSD CENSUS 2000 PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM SERIES #M-5

MEMORANDUM FOR Brian Monaghan
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Attention: Management Training Branch
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Subject: Observation of List/Enumerate and Update/Enumerate Operations
 at the Santa Fe, New Mexico Local Census Office (LCO)

I. INTRODUCTION

My trip to New Mexico consisted of observing the List/Enumerate (L/E) and Update/Enumerate (U/E) operations. My main purpose for going to New Mexico was to observe L/E. However, the Santa Fe Local Census Office (LCO) was nearly finished with the L/E operation; since U/E was still in progress I decided to observe this operation also.

II LIST/ENUMERATE

To observe L/E, the LCO manager sent me 150 miles north of Santa Fe to meet with a Field Operations Supervisor (FOS) in Roy, New Mexico. I was under the impression I was going to be able to observe some actual interviews, but once I arrived, the FOS informed me that they were finished enumerating his area. However, I was able to go out on a Quality Assurance (QA) check of an address listing book with him. To give a brief description of the area, the town of Roy consisted of a few buildings and a street intersection. The surrounding areas consisted of wide open land. You could see for miles without seeing any building structures. Almost all the blocks we were to check were listed as having no living quarters.

We drove for miles on dirt roads to check these blocks and sure enough we did not see any living quarters. The FOS said it was very common to get an address list book back that only had five or six living quarters. The living quarters were usually the homes of ranchers.

We did check and verify a block with a housing unit. Also, we came across a very old housing unit which was clearly vacant. Sometimes we could see part of a neighboring block that needed to be checked, but to get from one block to another sometimes required driving many miles back to a main road then driving up another road to get to the desired block.

III. UPDATE/ ENUMERATE

For U/E, I was to drive to the Taos Indian Reservation and observe the enumeration of the Taos Pueblo Indians. Before I observed, I was to meet with the governor of the reservation. However, when we went to meet with him he was not available. I needed to meet with him to get special permission to go into restricted areas of the reservation. So, I was only able to go into the tourist parts of the reservation. Only the Taos Pueblo Indians were allowed access to the entire reservation. The enumerators were native to the reservation. I met with the FOS, crew leader, and enumerators. They informed me that they were ahead of schedule. The first enumerator I went out with explained how the people on the reservation had been very receptive to the Census, except for the lady we were about to visit. The enumerator stated how she had already refused five times to doing a long form interview. We were visiting her at her place of work. At first she appeared she might accept the interview, however she began to name off job related tasks she needed to complete and asked the enumerator to call her to set up another appointment. After that attempt at an interview, the enumerator was finished for the day. So, I went back to the place where the crew leader and enumerators were meeting. I was able to accompany another enumerator to an area of the reservation for which I had permission to observe. The area appeared to be a tourist area of the reservation. There were businesses set up to sell Indian souvenirs and foods. All of the people the enumerator talked to were not living there on April 1 and were counted at their usual place of residence. Thus, the enumerator did not ask any further questions. The units were seasonal living quarters mainly used during the warm season to set up businesses for the tourists. It turns out there were a lot of addresses added for this particular block. The enumerator added over 50 missed housing units in several large multi-unit buildings. Apparently, the address lister during the address listing operation did not obtain all of the addresses for this particular block.

IV. CONCLUSION

Even though I was not able to observe any interviews for the L/E operation, observing the QA component of the operation gave me the experience of seeing the vast amounts of area that have to be covered in the L/E operation in northern New Mexico. Observing U/E at the Taos Pueblo Indian Reservation allowed me to see the importance of maintaining relations with Native American Indian Governments to allow access to their reservations for enumeration purposes.

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